

# PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 7 August 50 08/0350Z	2. LOCATION From San Francisco to Balboa, Panama Canal
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Astro (METEOR)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	Evaluated as a meteor observation.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Matter of Seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS  Object disappeared before he could say something, the appearance was about 45 deg high and the master and the chief mate who were talking, <del>was talking</del> The object flew with unbelievable speed over the ship and disappeared into the Northeast direction.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE NE	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	



23 August 1950

DIO, FIFTEENTH Naval District

Official

(e) Original written statement in German submitted by R. Wolpert, Master of the motor vessel "MINERVA"

P. 6

Flaming aerial body seen by Master and crew members of the "MINERVA"

ROCKET WEAPONS (Rockets &amp; Launchers) - Other Rocket weapons

6505

## SUMMARY

The German motor vessel "MINERVA", a passenger vessel under control of American Occupational Authorities, transited the Canal Northbound on 14 August, 1950 enroute from Stockton to Hamburg. During the transit the Master delivered a written statement to the ships agents, Panama Railroad Company, concerning an unusual appearance which occurred during the ships journey from San Francisco to the Canal.

1. R. Wolpert, Master of the motor vessel "MINERVA", during the ships Northbound transit through the Canal submitted to the ships agents, Panama Railroad Company, the following written statement, Enclosure (1), the translation of which follows:

Second voyage to the West Indies

Re: Sky Appearance.

On August 7, 1950 at 1900H the motor vessel MINERVA was traveling from San Francisco to Balboa, Panama Canal. Position: Latitude 21° 50'N - Longitude 105° 45'W.

At this moment, there were on the bridge the master, chiefmate, and the A. B. seaman [redacted]

The sailor was the first one to notice that a flaming appearance rose from the horizon in the South. He at first thought it could be a high rising star. The rising of the star, however, was a matter of seconds. Before he could say something, the appearance was about 45° high and the master and the chiefmate, who were talking, saw the same as [redacted]. The object flew with unbelievable speed over the ship and disappeared into the Northeast direction. The chief-

N 76781

CIA (9)  
STATE (5)  
DI USAF (6)  
G2 USA (6)  
CincPac  
ComNavForGer

Op 322V(TC)  
322F1D  
322F3  
322Y (3)  
322Y1

M3B/M5 (2)

(1) Original written statement in German submitted by [redacted], Master of the motor vessel "MINERVA"

Op 323M5.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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mate yelled at the same time "flying saucer". The engineer on duty, who was aft, saw a flaming body half the size of the setting sun and with a never heard of speed, fly away over the ship. It did not look like a meteor or any other cluster of stars.

The appearance had been noticed without any doubt to its actual existence by the [redacted] the Chiefmate [redacted] and Engineer [redacted] and the [redacted].

All agreed and describe that they saw a glowing frontal dark and backwards flaming body, the time being after sunset, however still daylight. In the rear, it drew yellow colored tail (orange-yellow). From the upper rear side it seems that there were a spraying of sparks. All declared that they have never seen such a sight before.

REPORTING OFFICER'S COMMENT: During the MINERVA's previous Canal transit on her outward voyage, the Master had been interviewed by a representative of DIO-15ND and was found to be a sincere and intelligent individual. It is felt that, since the appearance was witnessed and confirmed by three other individuals besides [redacted], the incident has sufficient grounds for possible credence.

The IFI No. 0406.0400 was used as the one having the greatest similarity to the subject of this report. However, it is felt that additional IFI numbers should be provided for such unusual occurrences and appearances.

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### *Meteors in the Records*

The American Meteoritics Society, whose members specialize in the study of meteors and meteorites, for years have collected reports of such phenomena. From a large enough number of good descriptions of a given meteor, astronomers can analyze the data mathematically and determine the meteor's radiant—the point in the heavens from which it seems to come. The meteor is then identified by its radiant and given an AMS number. The data were published in *Meteoritics*, the journal of the society, and thus made available for future research.

The records of the society for the years 1950 to 1955 list dozens of fireballs, many of them green, that were somehow overlooked by saucer enthusiasts. On August 11, 1950, during the maximum of the Perseid shower, a blue-green fireball (AMS 2336) apparently oval- or cigar-shaped, appeared over Washington, Oregon, and Idaho at 7:30 P.M. and was reported by more than 100 witnesses. So brilliant that it showed a noticeable disk, it flew in a horizontal path, silently broke into three pieces, and disappeared [8, p. 379].

September 20, the same year, was a big day for meteors. At 1:35 A.M. a giant fireball (AMS 2326) roared over southeastern Illinois from north to south, leaving a luminous train visible in five states and illuminating the sky and countryside from St. Louis to Louisville and from Memphis to Knoxville. The final detonation, over western Kentucky, was heard over an area 1000 miles square and shook buildings from Paducah to Memphis. Fragments showered farms over a twenty-five mile area, struck five buildings, and penetrated one roof. About fifty pounds of meteorites dropped in Murray, Calloway County, Kentucky, and are now in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. That same night about 10:45 P.M.,

fireballs were reported by plane crews flying over a six-state area—Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico [9, p. 115]. Similar fireballs that vanished without trace were reported on September 28, 1953 (AMS 2331); October 4, 1953 (AMS 2330); May 15, 1954; and October 27, 1954 (AMS 2337).



NOTE: CG, AMC  
INITIALS  
DATE

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Colored Light Phenomena

MCREEP-4  
Mr. Coons

NCIAXA-1

8-28-50 1

ATTN:

1. The attached message received from Tokyo, Japan, is forwarded for your information.

1 Incl  
Subject Message

EBL

BRUNOW W. FEILING  
Colonel, USAF  
Chief, Technical Analysis Div  
Intelligence Department

JJR/peg  
65376  
B 263-D  
P D-13

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

526.5

7-3712-51

508-84861-A



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Several Japanese and one CIC agent reported sighting unidentified object which appeared to be a flying saucer at approximately 2400 K 11 August 1950. Reported to Aircraft Control and Warning Cite No. 6 and from there to FEAF A-2. The Japanese weather station in the area received about thrity (30) calls from the people inquiring about the object. The CIC Agent is getting as much information as possible from eye witnesses. CIC agent located in NIIGATE, Medium altitude, color was yellow, changed to blue and then to red, separated in two parts and faded out and was not seen to drop. A hissing noise was heard similar to air released from a balloon. Estimated speed was 1 mile in 5 seconds.

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508.5  
Cable

508-84861



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AS ADVANCING TOWARD 1215-1463 PD FIFTH AF ADV STATES ENEMY BRIDGE-  
 HEAD AT 35 DEG 25 MIN N 128 DEG 28 MIN E REPORTED BY G-2 8TH ARMY TO  
 BE MORE THAN TWO REGIMENTS WITH UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF ARTILLERY PD  
 BRIDGE-HEAD HAS EXTENDED TO A POINT APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILES EAST OF  
 THE RIVER PD FIFTH AF ADV REPORTS ENEMY FORCE SUPPORTED BY TEN 10  
 TANKS ATTACKED UN POSITIONS VICINITY 36 DEG 13 MIN N 128 DEG 22 MIN E  
 PD ITEM 3 AND 4 CLN NO APPLICABLE INFORMATION RECEIVED PD ITEM 5 CLN  
 FEAF OSI REPORTS UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SIGHTED AT 112335K PAREN POSSIBLE  
 FLYING SAUCER PAREN CLN DETAILS [REDACTED] AIR DEFENSE CONTROLLER  
 CMA FIFTH AF TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED D/I DUTY OFFICER AT 12 AUG 50 THE  
 FOLLOWING INFORMATION CLN "RECD CALL AT 1820K 12 AUG FROM AIR  
 CONTROLLER AT SITE 6 RELATIVE TO AND UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT PAREN FLYING  
 SAUCER PAREN BEING SIGHTED BY SEVERAL JAPANESE AND ONE CIC AGENT PD  
 THE OBJECT WAS SEEN AT APPROX 2400K 11 AUG 50 PD HE PAREN CONTROLLER  
 AT SITE 6 PAREN RECEIVED THE INFO FROM A JAP WEATHER STATION PD THE  
 JAP WEATHER STATION RECEIVED ABOUT 30 CALLS FROM THE JAPANESE PEOPLE  
 PD ONE CALL FROM A CIC AGENT PD THE CIC AGENT IS INVESTIGATING AND  
 WILL GATHER AS MUCH INFO AS POSSIBLE FROM EYEWITNESSES PD [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED D/I DUTY OFFICER AT 2120K 12 AUG 50  
 THE FOLLOWING INFO CLN "RECEIVED CALL FROM CO OF CIC AT NIIGATA THRU  
 ADCC TO SUTE 6 PD AN EMPLOYEE OF CIC STATED THAT TIME OBJECT PASSES

CFN 1215-1455 35 25 N 128 28 E G-2 8TH 2 4 10UN 36 13 N 128  
 22 E 3 4 5 OSI 112335K D/I 12 50 1820K 12 6 2400K 11 50 6 EP CIC CIC  
 D/I 2120K 12 50 CO CIC ADCC 6 CIC

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SECRET

1x2  
 506.5  
 33  
 101-1-12